

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Allowable Claims

The allowance of claims 22-24 is noted with appreciation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner continues to reject claim 1 as being anticipated by Klein. Although exception is taken to this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the relationship between the repositionable island and the main unit when the repositionable island is attached to the front wall of the main unit. As amended, the repositionable island includes an island countertop that extends forwardly from a horizontal front top edge of the countertop of the main unit when the island is attached to the front wall of the main unit. This arrangement is neither disclosed nor suggested by Klein.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 as being anticipated by Medgebow U.S. Patent No. 3,904,041. Although exception is taken to this rejection, claim 12 has been amended to specify that the first and second units are configured to be supported on a floor, and that the second floor-supported unit is supportable on a floor independently of the first floor-supported unit when attached to the first floor-supported unit. In the kitchen rack structure of Medgebow, the second unit A is not configured to be supported on a floor, but instead hangs from a top edge of the first unit.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 12 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 as being unpatentable over Houry et al. U.S. Patent No. D345592 in view of Mariol U.S. Patent No. 4,515,359. Although exception is taken to this rejection, claim 9 has been amended in view of the Examiner's comments to clarify the relationship between the front surface and front side of the main unit, i.e. the front surface is at the front side of the main unit. Consequently, the applied references neither disclose nor suggest the subject matter of amended claim 9.

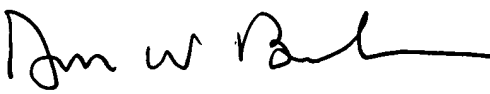
For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 9 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

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Date: August 15, 2005


Jennifer A. Moore

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